



Southeast Fishery Bulletin

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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ANNUAL SHRIMP FISHERY CLOSURE OFF TEXAS

NOAA Fisheries announces that Federal waters from 9 to 200 nautical miles off Texas will be closed to shrimping 30 minutes after sunset on May 15, 2001. The Federal closure will correspond to the period that Texas closes its waters to shrimp trawling. The shrimp fishery is closed annually off Texas to allow brown shrimp to reach a larger and more valuable size prior to harvest, and to prevent waste of brown shrimp that would otherwise be discarded due to their small size.

The closure ranges from 45 to 90 days; historically, the area has been reopened to shrimp trawling on or about July 15. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department establishes the re-opening date based on biological monitoring to determine when the average size of shrimp leaving the estuaries is 112 mm (4.4 inches) total length, during a period of maximum duration ebb tides. Federal waters will be re-opened concurrent to the opening of Texas state waters. If there is a need to adjust the July 15 date for the termination of the closure, NOAA Fisheries will provide notification of the revised opening date.

Fishery violations may be reported during business hours (M-F 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.), to the Southeast Regional Office Law Enforcement Division at 727-570-5344, or after hours by calling the hotline at 1-800-853-1964.

NOAA Fisheries is an agency of the Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.